

Recommendation 137 of the WEU Assembly on the state of European security, France and NATO (Paris, 16 June 1966)

Caption: On 16 June 1966, following the French Government's decision to withdraw its forces from the military structure of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) adopts Recommendation 137 on the state of European security, France and NATO, in which it particularly asks the WEU Council to seek assurance from France that the French forces currently stationed in Western Germany would be placed under the command of SACEUR in the event of aggression. The Assembly also asks whether all the WEU Member States still regard themselves as unreservedly committed to fulfil the obligation contained in Article V of the modified Brussels Treaty, namely the principle of mutual assistance in the event of aggression.

Source: Assembly of Western European Union. 'Recommendation 137 on the state of European security — France and NATO (Paris, sixth sitting, 16th June 1966)' in Proceedings: Twelfth ordinary session: First Part, Vol. II, Minutes: Official Report of Debates. Paris: Assembly of WEU. June 1966, p. 48.

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Last updated: 25/10/2016

RECOMMENDATION 137
on the state of European security
France and NATO

The Assembly,

- A. Regretting the decision of the French Government to withdraw its forces from NATO and to ask for the withdrawal of the military headquarters of the Alliance from France ;
- B. Noting with approval the determination of the other fourteen member States to maintain the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and its integrated military structure ;
- C. Considering it desirable to leave no doubt regarding the continued validity of the mutual obligation contained in Article V of the modified Brussels Treaty of 1954, under which the seven signatory States pledged themselves to afford to one another, if attacked, "all the military and other aid and assistance in their power" ;
- D. Recognising that it is necessary to remove the military headquarters of NATO from France, and approving the decision that, subject to the agreement of the governments concerned, they should be re-sited on the territory of the Benelux countries ;
- E. Welcoming the decisions of the North Atlantic Council :
 - (i) to abolish the Standing Group and to replace it by new arrangements, including an integrated international military staff ; and
 - (ii) to simplify the command structure and reduce the number of separate headquarters ;
- F. Emphasising the importance of reaching decisions without further delay on the remaining problems raised by the French Government's action ; and
- G. Convinced that NATO should make it clear that its rôle is not purely passive, but that it is actively concerned with the task of establishing real and lasting peace,

ASKS THE COUNCIL

- 1. To confirm to the Assembly that all the seven governments of Western European Union still regard themselves as unreservedly committed to fulfil the obligation contained in Article V of the modified Brussels Treaty of 1954 ; and
- 2. To urge the North Atlantic Council :
 - (a) to recognise that in spite of all possible military drawbacks, there is every political advantage to be gained for the future of Europe and the maintenance of an effective Atlantic Alliance in the political seat of the Atlantic organisation remaining in France ;
 - (b) to seek from the French Government a satisfactory assurance that, if the French forces now in Germany are allowed to remain there, they would, in the event of aggression or imminent threat of aggression, be placed under the command of SACEUR ; and
 - (c) while continuing to discharge its military responsibilities for the defence of the West, to take up actively the task of political reconciliation and to declare its readiness to discuss with the Soviet Union and the other States of Eastern Europe all possible ways of reducing tension.